PARENTS MAKE PLEA TO SON'S MURDERER

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Amputee sets his sights on gold

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Nadal stuns Federer to win Wimbledon

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

B.C. Lions GM and head coach Wally Buono, front, joined by vice-president of business George Chayka, speaks at a press conference discussing the death of Lions president Bob Ackles yesterday.

Lions legend dies

CEO Bob Ackles suffers heart attack at age 69

ANDREW KING
for Metro Vancouver

B.C. Lions' longtime president and CEO Bob Ackles died yesterday after he suffered a heart attack while stepping off his boat on Bowen Island. He was 69.

Ackles, a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, was known as the heart and soul of the B.C. Lions football club and was greatly respected throughout the football world.

Lions' players and management were notified of Ackles' death while attending a family day at the team's Surrey practice facility.

Lions' head coach and general manager Wally Buono struggled to fight back tears as he looked to Ackles' own advice to cope with his loss.

"It's like Bob used to always tell me, sleep on the losses, when you wake up tomorrow, you know, work on the next victory," said Buono.

Longtime Lion Bret Anderson said being in the company of family and teammates helped.

"It was good for us as a team, our families and our team as a family, good for us to all be together today and be able to deal with this together," said Anderson.

"I don't know if there's anyone that loved the game more," said Lions' vice-president of business George Chayka.

B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum curator James Beck was "blown away" by the news.

"All the time that I knew him he was just an absolute gentleman and one of the real good guys of sport ... just a genuine person," said Beck.

He added that he felt a little embarrassed when he called Ackles last Thursday to ask him questions for a research project.

"I was asking him ... about the Lions' dressing room in 1954 and I knew he'd be the one who would know."

long team history

Bob Ackles

Ackles joined the Lions in the team's inaugural season in 1953 as the team's water boy. In 1975 he was named the Lions' general manager, a position he held until 1986. Throughout the 1990s Ackles worked in the NFL as well as the XFL in 2000 before returning to the Lions in 2002.

Surrey Central least safe of stations: Poll

TRANSLINK Surrey Central station is seen as the least safe SkyTrain stop, according to a TransLink poll.

Broadway station and Metrotown followed in notoriety in the phone and web survey of more than 3,000 SkyTrain users.

Ken Hardie, TransLink spokesperson, said problems in the surrounding communities affect riders' perception of the stations.

"There are bigger issues in the communities around the stations than on the system itself," Hardie said yesterday.

TransLink will have to have serious discussions about increasing staff at the stations, Hardie said, which could lead to increased fares.

"If we spend it (on staffing), that means that we don't have it to spend on another bus or to extend a service or a route somewhere," he said, adding that installing turnstiles will only prevent the "low-level idiot fringe" from causing trouble.

ANDREW KING/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Capacity protest delays ferry

FULL An angry group of about 40 would-be passengers delayed by half an hour a B.C. Ferries sailing by standing on the ramp to the car deck after being told the vessel was full.

The Queen of Nanaimo was the last sailing to Tsawwassen on Saturday night.

The Mounties had to be called in to disperse the group at the Sturdies Bay Ferry Terminal on Galiano Island.

Deborah Marshall, B.C. Ferries spokesperson, said the ferry was at capacity with 584 passengers.

"We're licensed by Transport Canada to carry a certain number of passengers," she said. "When we get past that number, we can't carry any more because when we evacuate the ship, we need a certain amount of crew to evacuate in a certain amount of time.

JOYCE YIP/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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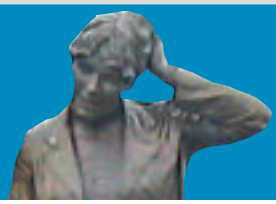
B.C. firefighters to aid California

B.C. is sending 15 firefighters to California to help respond to fires in the northern part of the state, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell announced yesterday. There are currently 331 active fires in California. They have destroyed 36 residences, and are threatening more than 9,000 others. METRO VANCOUVER

Local



Thousands in public art not insured

A statue, left, stolen from a Vancouver park was not insured, according to Bryan Newson, the city's public art program manager. Newson added the city does not insure any of its public art and that the remaining three statues in the sculpture entitled Photo Session are valued at close to $100,000 each. CBC.CA/BC

Argument leads to shooting

One man faces charges in slaying outside restaurant

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

One man was killed and another man was injured in a pair of shootings as a spat of gun violence rocked Vancouver this weekend.

"They both began with arguments and a gun came out," said Vancouver Const. Tim Fanning.

"Nobody should ever carry a gun," he added. "We've seen the tragic outcome of innocent people dying like Lee Matasi and Rachael Davis."

On Saturday morning, a 25-year-old male of Vietnamese decent, whose identity will be released following an autopsy tomorrow, died after being shot outside a Vietnamese restaurant on Nanaimo Street at Broadway.

The incident stemmed from an argument — involving about 20 people — that spilled out of the restaurant just before 2 a.m.

Everyone involved left the scene before police arrived.

The victim was rushed to the hospital, but died of his injuries.

Fanning said the shooting has the "earmarks" of gang violence, but added it was too early to say for sure.

Hours earlier, on Friday evening, three men were arguing in the south lane of Davie Street at Thurlow Street.

"They both began with arguments and a gun came out. Nobody should ever carry a gun."
Vancouver Const. Tim Fanning

A gun was pulled and one of the men was shot through the leg.

A witness gave the injured man first aid.

The 21-year-old was taken to hospital. He is expected to recover from his wound.

Vancouver police said Behrang "Ben" Khosravi is facing five criminal charges, including attempted murder.

News in brief

SMOKING City staff say hookah bars are breaking provincial health bylaws, cknw.com reports. The bars are violating the three-metre space between smokers and doorways as well as the ban on smoking indoors, complainants said.

SENTENCING A 21-year-old man has been sentenced to life imprisonment after stabbing his foster father to death two years ago, CBC News Online reports. Jonathan Keegan Bird lived with the Burnaby man, 61, since he was 11. Cocaine and alcohol were factors in the killing. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and is not eligible for parole for 10 years.

HYDRO ELECTRICITY The Western Canada Wilderness Committee in Abbotsford is turning down another request from a private power project, news1130.com reports. The project, Run of River wants permission to build hydro electricity plants north of Harrison Lake, but the committee wants to see clearer power-need projections and a public involvement.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Teresa Waclawik hosts a small gathering in Queen Elizabeth Park yesterday. Tonight, the park board will vote on whether or not to remove about 70 trees blocking views from Little Mountain.

Park board to put 70 trees on chopping block today

JEFF HODSON
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Vancouver's park board will vote tonight whether to remove about 70 trees from Queen Elizabeth Park to restore views of the downtown from Little Mountain, Vancouver's highest peak.

The plan would re-open three view corridors that have slowly been obstructed by trees, planted over the past 50 years as part of the park's arboretum.

Proposal

In January, the park board rejected a proposal that would have seen a privately developed and operated observation tower built at the park.

"People love the trees in Queen Elizabeth Park," said Teresa Waclawik, who lives nearby and held a small rally yesterday to celebrate the trees.

"The wildlife is here because of the trees. If we take away the trees the wildlife will leave," said Waclawik, as she collected names for a petition and sold bright green T-shirts, reading "Save the trees in Queen Elizabeth Park."

The proposed tree management plan would remove trees from three view cones on the north side of the park — the large quarry lookout, the Bloedel Conservatory Plaza and the Anniversary Garden lookout.

Two trees will be replanted for every one removed.

Community policing centre opens

PREVENTION A new community policing centre officially opened at the Ross Street Temple in South Vancouver yesterday to bring crime prevention and crime awareness programs to members of the city's South Asian population.

The office, which has been up-and-running for the past two weeks, is the brainchild of Const. Roger Rai, a 17-year veteran of the Vancouver Police Department.

"What we're trying to do is to reach as many people as we can," said Rai. "To get them to understand what their responsibilities are. That they should be more accountable for their behaviour and for their friends' behaviour."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A community police centre opens at the Ross Street Temple yesterday in South Vancouver.

The importance of the policing office is to help members of the community deal with certain issues — like gang violence, domestic violence and alcoholism — that have been prevalent in the news over the past few years, Rai said.

"It allows individuals the opportunity to come down, sit down, and in a less formal manner bring up issues that are important to them and important to the community."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Stabbing victim in critical condition

ARREST A woman is in critical condition after being stabbed in a domestic assault at a Downtown Eastside rooming house, police said yesterday.

Vancouver Police Const. Tim Fanning said when officers arrived they found a woman with knife wounds to her head, chest and arms, news1130.com reports.

A 45-year-old man was arrested at the scene and will likely face charges of attempted murder.

Fanning said police have attended calls to the same rooming house many times.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

letters

Good treatment draws NHLers

Re: "Parting such Swede sorrow."

Firstly I would like to thank Markus Nasland for his service to the Canucks and to the Vancouver community.

Now, I would like to know what the hell the management of the Canucks think they are doing?

We now do not have Naslund to kick around anymore and we can't blame him for our lack of scoring.

Do we think that Mr. (Mats) Sundin is the Band-Aid for our big bleeding wound?

How you get players to come here is by treating the ones you have the very best you are able to.

I am a big Canucks fan and ... I do hope the team pulls together, mends, and has a super fantastic 2008-2009 season.

DIANE RINDT, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail letters to vancouverletters@metronews.ca. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.

Power line protest A group opposed to the high-voltage overhead power line project in Tsawwassen, Mothers Against Power Poles, has written to Oprah Winfrey and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger asking for help. Organizer Heather Colls Whalberg said the group is confident they'll get a response. **SOURCE: NEWS1130.COM**

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Adam Cassidy writes a warning into a grimy Downtown Eastside sidewalk with the neighbourhood's new power washer yesterday.

A powerful statement

Downtown Eastside residents pitch in to clean up area

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Tired of living in a neighbourhood steeped in urine, several Downtown Eastside residents and business owners have pitched in for a community pressure washer to hose the filthy sidewalks and brighten their street.

Adam Cassidy, who has a studio space on Columbia and Pender streets and came up with the idea, said the area already seems brighter and more welcoming.

"(The washer) worked like gangbusters," he said, pointing to a line dividing the dark, unwashed cement from the bright, clean cement he had just cleaned.

In the filth he sprayed the words 'Crack Kills.'

"To leave this area (like this) is an insult to the … community," Cassidy said.

Susan Schroeder, whose floral shop is separated from Cassidy's building by what she calls the "worst alley in the city," pitched in for the washer.

"People don't want to come down here because of the stink, and it makes it difficult to operate a business," she said. "(Now) it doesn't stink. It's cleaner."

The washer is being kept in Schroeder's shop for other neighbours to borrow, and a local single room occupancy hotel resident is making some extra money doing the washing.

"It would be nice if (we) got people who live down here involved, and I think that's totally possible."
Susan Schroeder
shop owner

"It would be nice if (we) got people who live down here involved, and I think that's totally possible," said Schroeder.

Home after 12 years in prison

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

BULGARIA A Canadian businessman who was imprisoned in Bulgaria after being convicted of embezzlement returned home to Vancouver last night after spending 12 years in jail.

Michael Kapoustin, 55, who is from Penticton, was released from prison on Thursday and yesterday was reunited with his wife, Tracy, and 15-year-old son, Nicky.

MP Jason Kenney, who lobbied the Bulgarian prosecutor-general for his release, said Kapoustin didn't receive due process.

Kapoustin went to Bulgaria in the early 1990s and quickly found himself facing fraud and embezzlement allegations, which he denied.

He was cleared of the former charge, but was convicted of embezzling around $4 million from 2,800 Bulgarian investors in his LifeChoice International investment fund and given a 17-year sentence.

Plugged sewer caused bacteria in False Creek

JOYCE YIP
for Metro Vancouver

CLEAN UP City engineers have found the source of coliform bacteria in the eastern basin of False Creek.

A plugged sewer in the Chinatown area has overflown to the storm sewer system that drains rainwater into the area east of the Cambie Bridge, CBC News Online reports.

Officials warn that it may take several days until the bacteria level, which had been 15 times higher than the safe swimming standard, to return to normal.

Although people don't usually swim in False Creek, kayakers and dragon boaters are warned to stay away from the contaminated area. Vancouver Coastal Health officials suggest they clean up immediately after leaving the water and to avoid any hand-to-mouth activity.

Coliform bacteria are born from fecal matter and may cause skin rashes and irritation.

News in brief

BODY DISCOVERED RCMP divers have recovered a body discovered by a group of people searching for their missing friend. Andrew Koch, 26, was swept into Lynn Creek on June 29. The body, which has not been identified, was spotted with an underwater camera.

BOMB SCARE New Westminster SkyTrain station was closed for several hours this weekend after the RCMP's Explosives Disposal Unit was called in to investigate a suspicious package at a nearby pub, *cknw.com* reports. No explosives were found.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Common chemicals identified
Catecho, a chemical used to develop photos and as an oxidizing agent in hair dyes, has been listed by the government as one of eight dangerous common chemicals. METRO

Canada

"One (appeal) is asking for a kidney to be donated altruistically."
Ken Donohue of the B.C. Transplant Society speaking on the transplant selection process.

close friend?
Two Canadian couples have turned to Facebook and Craigslist in their search for organ donation. Canadian law allows friends to donate, but officials have no way of telling the depth of that friendship.

Native schools strapped for cash: Superintendent

CALGARY Yvonne DePeel, a Calgary native school superintendent says the federal government's recent residential schools apology is meaningless if the students today on Canada's native reserves can't get a decent education.

DePeel points to the Morley Community School for native students west of Calgary that may be forced to hold classes outdoors next year because of a lack of space. The school was built to hold 450 students, but when classes resume in September, 790-plus students are expected to arrive.

80 The number of native schools across Canada in a tough financial situation.

MP Charlie Angus, the NDP's native affairs critics, said there are 80 native schools across Canada in the same situation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa man charged in theft of 25 sewer grates

FINES A 42-year-old Ottawa man faces charges in connection to the recent disappearance of manhole covers and sewer grates in the city.

Tim Argiropoulos, 42, will appear in court next month in connection to the theft of 25 sewer grates More than 150 of the covers and grates were taken in the past month.

It's thought that the disappearance of the covers and grates is connected to high scrap-metal prices.

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G8 looks to regain stature

Harper calls to condemn Mugabe election

Weakened by economic woes and enduring political divisions, leaders of the Group of Eight nations meeting here will be more hard-pressed than usual to live up to their avowed commitment to act in the global interest.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is greeted by Japanese officials upon his arrival at New Chitose International Airport yesterday ahead of the G8 Summit.

Early indications are that Canada, the United States and other G8 countries are shying away from agreements on decisive action on some of today's most pressing problems — improving health in developing nations, aid to Africa, the world food crisis and climate change.

"Their credibility is running low because under their tenure, not much has happened" to help developing countries, Mark Fried, advocacy co-ordinator for Oxfam Canada, says of current G8 leaders.

This year's G8 meeting takes place against a backdrop of punishing global oil prices, turmoil in the international banking and credit sector and the worst overall economic conditions since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

The group, which also includes Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia, is opening a three-day summit on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

But Prime Minister Stephen Harper has already called on the G8 to condemn Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's recent controversial election. Harper met with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda shortly after arriving from Canada.

During a 45-minute session, Harper and Fukuda agreed that the G8 should put out a separate statement on the illegitimacy of Mugabe's government in Zimbabwe. Some countries taking part in today's discussions on Africa also favour the adoption of tougher sanctions. Over the course of the next few days, Harper is expected to take time to press other leaders for commitments in Afghanistan.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vancouver **Trainspotters**

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Trainspotters turn out in droves to size-up a Canadian Pacific Hudson 4-6-4 as it prepared to depart Vancouver yesterday. It was the steam-train-turned-museum's final stop as it toured 34 communities as part of B.C.'s 150th anniversary celebration.

Green plan to be tough sell: Dion

ALBERTA Federal Liberal Leader Stephen Dion was at the University of Alberta yesterday to promote his controversial new carbon tax plan.

Stéphane Dion

After spending a day talking to Stampede goers in Calgary about his "green shift" plan that looks to collect $15.4 billion in new taxes from industries that produce high carbon emissions, Dion told over 100 young people at the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Conference that his plan would be a tough sell in Alberta. Premier Ed Stelmach said Dion's plan would harm the province's growth.

METRO CANADA

News in brief

CENSUS An Ontario man and a Saskatchewan woman both say they are willing to go to jail because they refuse to hand in their 2006 census forms. Todd Stelmach, 32, of Kingston, Ont., and Sandra Findley, 59, of Saskatoon, don't know each other, but they are facing the same legal fight. Both are protesting the law-enforced poll because Lockheed Martin won the contract to upgrade the census software.

SUICIDAL Mounties in Edmonton had a life-or-death situation on their hands after a suicidal man tried to get them to shoot him. Mounties say the irate man, who was the woman's husband and father to the 12 and 14-year old children, threatened the passer-by with the knife when he tried to intervene in the situation. The passer-by tackled the man and held him until police arrived. METRO CANADA

Election finance probe
After months of delay, a probe of the Tories so-called in-and-out election financing scheme is finally scheduled to begin on July 15. METRO

Fortune favours farmers

In a world of growing hunger, the food producer is king.

Western Canadian grain farmers were once the lowliest of all, but just two years after grain prices bottomed out, they are reaping the benefits of having sown what is so desperately needed: food.

"Farmers have never seen a year like this...unbelievable prices."
Dan Mourre, farmer

The price of grain has soared this past year, turning profits for farmers once on the verge of bankruptcy.

"Farmers have never seen a year like (this), wonderful crop, unbelievable prices," says Dan Mourre, a farmer near Rosetown, Sask. "There are a lot of happy people around. If oil can go up to $150 a barrel, why shouldn't wheat go to $15 a bushel?"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa shocked by water accidents

TIM WIECLAWSKI
Metro Canada

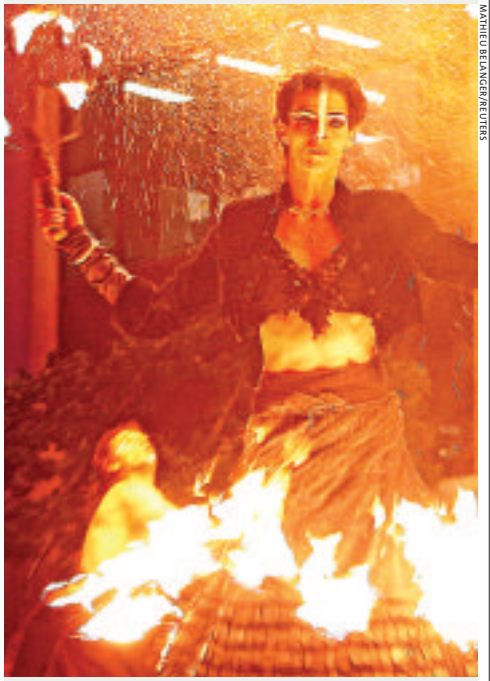
Heroic actions by civilians are being credited for preventing several tragedies on the Ottawa River yesterday, including the rescue of a man who apparently leapt off the Alexandra Bridge.

A 23-year-old man reportedly jumped off the interprovincial bridge at 12:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon and, despite a 15-metre drop, did not suffer any serious injuries upon striking the water. According to Ottawa paramedic team leader Paul Morneau, the captain of a passing motorboat pulled the man from the water almost immediately after impact.

That was one of three water rescues along the Ottawa River yesterday, all within a span of hours.

One man was caught in a fast moving current while trying to retrieve a child's toy and the other man suffered a wakeboard accident. Both survived the incidents.

Québec Street performers



MATHIEU BELANGER/REUTERS

A street performer performs during the annual Gathering on the Boulevard show in Quebec City yesterday.

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European missile shield
The Czech Republic and the United States will sign a treaty tomorrow to build a missile defence radar on Czech soil despite opposition at home and in Russia. Washington is also planning to put 10 interceptor rockets in neighbouring Poland. REUTERS

World

Wax figure protest

A man tore the head from a controversial waxwork figure of Adolf Hitler on the opening day of Berlin's Madame Tussauds museum Saturday, police said. Minutes after the museum opened, the 41-year-old German man pushed aside two security men guarding the figure before ripping off the head in protest at the exhibit. REUTERS

News in brief

HURRICANE Tropical Storm Bertha, moving briskly across open ocean waters, may strengthen into the first hurricane of the 2008 Atlantic storm season sometime during the next 48 hours, U.S. weather forecasters said yesterday.

FERTILITY Couples trying to have a baby when the man is over 40 will have more difficulty conceiving than if he is younger, French researchers said yesterday.

ABDUCTIONS U.S. President George W. Bush pledged yesterday that Japan's concerns about North Korean abductions of its citizens would not be ignored even as Washington moved to ease sanctions against the communist country.

AGRICULTURE The European Union will channel 1 billion euros in unused European farm subsidies to African farmers as part of its response to the global food crisis, the head of the EU executive said yesterday morning.

AFGHANISTAN Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered an investigation into a U.S.-led coalition air strike that local officials say killed 15 civilians, but the U.S. military says killed only armed Taliban militants.

IRAQ A car bomb killed six civilians and wounded 14 other people in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad yesterday, police said. REUTERS

Parents appeal to son's killer

Suspect still loose after London murder

The parents of one of the two French students murdered in London a week ago in a frenzied knife attack appealed yesterday for the killer to come forward and said they would not rest until the guilty party was found.

Suspect composite

Bio-engineering students Laurent Bonomo and Gabriel Ferez, both 23, were bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed in Bonomo's south London apartment in what police called the most "frenzied, brutal and horrific" murders they had seen.

Bonomo was stabbed nearly 200 times, up to 80 times after he was dead, while Ferez received nearly 50 knife wounds.

French newspapers said the shocking murders highlighted how dangerous the city had become after a spate of street teen stabbings this year that has prompted the mayor to make it a priority and police to expand a specialist knife crime squad.

"We plead with you to turn yourselves in to the police. You will not be able to live in hiding forever," Ferez' parents Francoise and Olivier said in a statement. "You may be scared and feel like a coward, but you must recognize this terrible mistake you made. Rest assured that we will not leave you in peace."

Police issued a computer-generated likeness of a man seen running from near the apartment on the night of the murders. REUTERS

Firefighters brace for heat wave

BIG SUR Weary California firefighters braced yesterday for another heat wave in the next few days as they battled to bring two major blazes threatening towns along the central coast under control.

Cooler weather Saturday helped fire crews make some headway against a six-day old fire raging in rugged terrain near the small town of Goleta, about eight miles from Santa Barbara.

evacuation

Residents in more than 2,600 homes in the path of a 9,367-acre fire in the Santa Barbara area were still under evacuation orders. Families who live in another 850 houses were warned to be ready to leave at short notice, officials said.

But with the fire only 28 per cent contained, temperatures rose and humidity dropped yesterday ahead of what forecasters warned would be another heat wave ahead with temperatures exceeding 38 C in many areas.

"Any time temperatures increase and relative humidity goes down, the fuels get drier and you have a more combustible situation. There is a lot of concern for firefighter safety," said Karen McKinley, spokeswoman for the National Forest Service. REUTERS

Spain **Helping hands**

REUTERS/DANI CORDONA

A reveller is caught after leaping from the Plaza de la Navarreria fountain at the start of the San Fermin festival yesterday in Pamplona, Spain.

Hostages urged to hold on to hope

BETANCOURT Freed hostage Ingrid Betancourt spoke yesterday through a radio broadcast to those still being held in the Colombian jungle by leftist guerrillas, urging them not to lose hope.

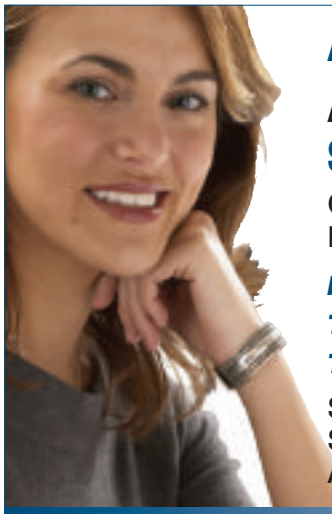
The Franco-Colombian politician was freed on Wednesday by a Colombian army operation after more than six years in the hands of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). She arrived in France on Friday to a hero's welcome.

"I have spoken to French President Nicolas Sarkozy several times and he committed himself publicly to continue the fight for all the hostages who are still in the jungle," Betancourt told remaining captives of the FARC during her broadcast, of which snippets were aired on French media.

"I have spoken to French President Nicolas Sarkozy ... and he committed himself publicly to continue the fight for all the hostages."
Freed hostage
Ingrid Betancourt

She spoke from Paris on Radio Caracol, a Colombian radio station routinely used to communicate with FARC hostages, on which she had listened to messages from relatives and supporters during her long captivity.

A source close to Betancourt said she had urged the jungle captives not to lose hope and that they too would soon taste freedom. REUTERS



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High oil spurs demand for low energy electronics
From washing machines that use steam instead of hot water, to fridges that use low energy compressors, to low power computer screens, electronics firms are furiously developing energy-efficient products that use less electricity than competitors' brands. REUTERS

Business

Bush backs strong dollar

U.S. President George W. Bush said in Tokyo yesterday the American economy was not growing as quickly as he would like and that his administration supported a strong dollar policy. The U.S. economy grew at a 1 per cent annual rate in the first quarter amid soaring oil and commodity prices. REUTERS

Imports of vehicles from U.S. double

The number of vehicles imported into Canada from the United States in 2008 is well on pace to break last year's record high, according to data compiled by the North American Automobile Trade Association.

Canadians imported 151,169 vehicles as of June 30, more than double the amount for the same period a year earlier, and fast approaching the 189,738 vehicles imported throughout 2007.

"The strong Canadian dollar is definitely the force behind that (trend) and I think that Canadians are becoming more and more aware of the vast savings on some vehicles," said Mark Sandelin, chief executive of Import Trader, a company that specializes in importing vehicles and heavy equipment from the United States.

Sandelin says once all the import fees have been taken into account, Canadians can expect to save, on average, between $3,000 and $4,000 on a vehicle selling for $30,000 at a Canadian dealership.

Last week, the Canadian government made it easier for Canadians to import vehicles from the United States by introducing new bumper standards to match those currently in place in the United States and Europe. REUTERS

Starbucks' fall delights fans

GLEE Financial woes at Starbucks, which is planning to close 600 underperforming U.S. stores, is evoking glee and little sympathy from aficionados who say they resent the coffee shop giant and favour independent cafes.

The schadenfreude of coffee drinkers drawing satisfaction from another's misfortune is part of the popular culture that enjoys the downfall of companies or celebrities, said Jim Carroll, a Canadian-based trends and innovation expert. Starbucks fell victim to a change in attitude, fuelled by bloggers complaining about layoffs and its sandwiches, he said. REUTERS

Ivey index's rise beats expectations

CANADIAN ECONOMY Canadian business purchasing activity increased more than expected in June, to 69.6 from 62.5 in May, according to the Ivey Purchasing Managers Index released Friday, but the figures also signalled the jobs market may be weakening.

The Ivey employment index dropped to 58.2 from 59.3 in the previous month. In May, Canadian job growth was at its weakest level since December with the economy adding 8,400 jobs, which was below the median analyst forecast for 10,000 jobs. REUTERS

News in brief

BCE TAKEOVER BCE Inc. said on Friday that its buyers had finalized funding and were sticking to their $34.8-billion purchase price. BCE said it expected its going-private deal to close by Dec. 11. REUTERS

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MLB

Closer Brad Lidge signed a three-year, $37.5-million extension with the Philadelphia Phillies yesterday. Lidge is 2-0 with 19 saves in 19 chances and has an ERA of 0.77. The contract includes a club option for a fourth year that could push the contract up to $49 million. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

Brewers may have Sabathia

The Milwaukee Brewers have reportedly acquired pitcher C.C. Sabathia from the Cleveland Indians last night for a package of prospects. According to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, the deal is contingent upon paperwork being finalized and medical reports being exchanged and that the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner could be in action for the Brewers tomorrow against the Colorado Rockies. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sharks gobble up Boyle's big deal

NHL The San Jose Sharks acquired defencemen Dan Boyle and Brad Lukowich from the Tampa Bay Lightning in exchange for defencemen Matt Carle and Ty Wishart.

defenceman Dan Boyle

The Sharks also gave up a first-round pick in 2009 and a fourth-round selection in 2010.

Boyle, who signed a six-year, $40 million US extension in February, had to waive his no-trade clause in order to complete the deal. Boyle has registered 76 goals and 216 assists in 523 career games with Florida and Tampa Bay.

Garland helps Angels top Jays

MLB Jon Garland allowed one run in a complete game, and Jeff Mathis went 2-for-4 with three RBIs, as the Los Angeles Angels topped Toronto, 7-1, in the rubber match of a three-game series with the Blue Jays yesterday.

Garland gave up six hits and no walks in his nine-inning effort, and struck out three while throwing just 98 pitches. The victory was the 100th of Garland's career. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Kim battles back to win AT&T title

GOLF American Anthony Kim claimed his second victory of the year by shooting a flawless five-under-par 65 to win the AT&T National in Maryland by two strokes over Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson yesterday.

Kim, who entered the final round three strokes behind leader Tom Pernice, recorded five birdies and no bogeys on the rigorous Congressional Country Club course to finish at 12-under 268. **REUTERS**

Nadal steals Federer's crown

Spaniard wins five-set epic to seal first Wimbledon championship

Rafael Nadal punched a mighty hole through Roger Federer's aura of invincibility yesterday to become the first Spaniard in over four decades to win the Wimbledon men's singles crown.

TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS

Rafael Nadal of Spain playfully takes a bite out of his trophy after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, 9-7 yesterday in the Wimbledon men's final.

In one of the most nerve-jangling finals seen at the All England Club, Nadal survived two rain breaks and an astonishing Federer fightback to end the Swiss's five-year reign as Wimbledon champion with a thrilling 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 9-7 victory.

While Nadal emulated the 1966 feat of fellow Spaniard Manuel Santana, Federer's dreams of eclipsing Bjorn Borg and setting a modern-era record of six successive Wimbledon titles died after four hours and 48 minutes of heart-stopping action.

Nadal's astounding journey to win his first crown at the grasscourt grand slam began under cloudy skies and finished in near darkness.

The 22-year-old collapsed on to his back the moment Federer buried a forehand into the net on Nadal's fourth match point.

Dragging himself up from the turf, a tearful Nadal clambered through the stands to embrace his family and friends, who draped the red and yellow Spanish flag over his shoulders.

In a Wimbledon first, the Majorcan then strode across the commentary boxes on Centre Court to shake hands with Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia of Spain in the Royal Box and went on to exchange high fives with numerous fans in the stands.

"It's impossible to explain what I felt in that moment ... winning my favourite tournament, it's a dream," Nadal told the crowd after becoming the first man since Borg in 1980 to complete the Roland Garros-Wimbledon double in the same year.

Four weeks after humiliating Federer in the French Open final, Nadal demonstrated that the balance of power in men's tennis had shifted in his favour when he handed the Swiss his first grasscourt defeat in six years.

An utterly dejected Federer, though still world No. 1, could barely fathom his first major final defeat outside his three losses at Roland Garros.

"This is a disaster, Paris was nothing in comparison," said the 12-time grand slam champion, who had hoped to close in on Pete Sampras' overall record of 14 major titles.

On Saturday, Venus Williams survived a fierce onslaught from her sister Serena Williams to win her fifth Wimbledon singles title. The sisters then defeated Samantha Stosur and Lisa Raymond to claim the women's double title.

Toronto's Daniel Nestor and his partner Nenad Zimonjic defeated Jonas Bjorkman and Kevin Ullyett 7-6 6-7 6-3 6-3 to win the men's doubles title, helping Nestor complete a career grand slam. **REUTERS**

5 Number of career grand slam titles won by Spain's Rafael Nadal (French Open 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008; Wimbledon 2008)

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	51	32	.614	—
Boston	50	36	.581	2½
N.Y. Yankees	44	40	.524	7½
Baltimore	43	40	.518	8
Toronto	41	44	.482	11

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	48	35	.578	—
Minnesota	47	38	.553	2
Detroit	42	42	.500	6½
Kansas City	38	47	.447	11
Cleveland	37	47	.440	11½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	51	34	.600	—
Oakland	45	39	.535	5½
Texas	44	41	.518	7
Seattle	32	51	.386	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	46	39	.541	—
Florida	44	40	.524	1½
N.Y. Mets	41	42	.494	4
Atlanta	40	45	.471	6
Washington	34	52	.395	12½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	50	34	.595	—
St. Louis	48	37	.565	2½
Milwaukee	45	38	.542	4½
Houston	40	44	.476	10
Pittsburgh	40	44	.476	10
Cincinnati	39	47	.453	12

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	42	42	.500	—
L.A. Dodgers	39	44	.470	2½
San Francisco	37	47	.440	5
Colorado	33	51	.393	9
San Diego	33	52	.388	9½

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

L.A. Angels 7 Toronto 1
Chicago White Sox 4 Oakland 3
Detroit 2 Seattle 1 (15 ings)
Minnesota 4 Cleveland 3
Tampa Bay 9 Kansas City 2
Texas 11 Baltimore 10
N.Y. Yankees 5 Boston 4 (10 ings)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Arizona 3 San Diego 2
Atlanta 7 Houston 6 (17 ings)
Chicago Cubs 7 St. Louis 1
Cincinnati 6 Washington 5
Florida 10 Colorado 5
L.A. Dodgers 5 San Francisco 3
Milwaukee 11 Pittsburgh 6
N.Y. Mets 4 Philadelphia 2 (12 ings)

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 9:40
Minnesota at Boston, 4:05
L.A. Angels at Texas, 5:05
Seattle at Oakland, 7:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Houston at Pittsburgh, 4:05
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 4:05
Colorado at Milwaukee, 5:05
Florida at San Diego, 7:05
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	2	0	0	4
Edmonton	1	1	0	2
Calgary	1	1	0	2
B.C.	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	2	0	0	4
Hamilton	1	1	0	2
Toronto	1	1	0	2
Winnipeg	0	2	0	0

WEEK 2

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 38 Winnipeg 24
Saskatchewan 26 **B.C.** 16

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Hamilton 32 Toronto 13
Edmonton 34 Calgary 31

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS' MEN'S TEAM:

SATURDAY'S RESULT

Rochester 3 **VANCOUVER** 1

WEDNESDAY'S GAME

Toronto at **VANCOUVER**, 7

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:

LAST NIGHT'S RESULT

VANCOUVER at Boise

TONIGHT'S GAME

VANCOUVER at Boise, 6:15

Sports in brief

MOTORSPORTS McLaren's Lewis Hamilton blew away his rivals to win a wet and chaotic British Grand Prix yesterday and storm back to the top of the Formula One standings. Hamilton is the first British winner at Silverstone since 2000.

CYCLING Norway's Thor Hushovd powered to his sixth victory on the Tour de France when he won a sprint to snatch the second stage yesterday. Spain's Alejandro Valverde still holds the overall lead. **REUTERS**

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Health Olympic athletes exposed to Beijing's polluted air face possible blood circulation problems which could affect their performance, experts say. REUTERS

Beijing Games

Christopher books ticket to Beijing

ATHLETICS Tyler Christopher roared to victory in the 400-metre final at the Canadian track and field championships on Saturday in Windsor, Ont., setting an event record of 45.03 seconds and booking his ticket to the Beijing Games.

Priscilla Lopes-Schliep won the women's 100 hurdles final in 12.78 seconds, beating Angela Whyte who recorded a season-best 12.96.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gay will miss out on 200M in Beijing

ATHLETICS World champion Tyson Gay's dream of Olympic double gold ended in pain when he crashed out of the U.S. 200 metres quarter-finals on Saturday.

Already qualified for Beijing in the 100 metres, Gay had run about 40 metres of the 200 metres when he grabbed at his left hamstring and tumbled to the track.

The injury was a major blow to the U.S. hopes in Beijing since under the strict qualifying procedure of the trials only the top three finishers make the Olympic team regardless of circumstances. REUTERS

Phelps takes aim at 8 gold medals

SWIMMING Michael Phelps closed out the U.S. Olympic trials with a commanding win in the 100 metres butterfly on Saturday, adding a final flourish to his packed Beijing program.

After seven days, 15 swims and two world records, Phelps has crafted an Olympic schedule that will include eight events, providing the 23-year-old with enough ammunition to attack Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals at a single Summer Games. REUTERS

Tomorrow's lineup

LIFE'S A BEACH. Beach volleyball player Dana Cooke and partner Annie Martin have spent the past month in Europe going from tournament to tournament in an effort to secure a spot in Beijing. Read tomorrow's Metro for more.

31 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

'I am living my dream'

Paralympic athlete Connor, 31, sets sights on gold medal in Beijing

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Canada

Fate had seemingly made a wretched decision, but Calgarian paralympic athlete Earle Connor stood up and ran in the other direction — literally — with just one foot.

When he was three months old, Connor's parents had to make a tough decision: Subject their child to surgery every time he grew, or amputate his left leg. Born with a congenital condition that left his leg without a fibula, his parents decided to amputate his leg. The alternative, says the now 31-year-old, would have been very limiting, and would have confined him to a wheelchair. Instead, he took up sports.

"Beyond being an amputee, it was a way to express myself as a child," he said, describing himself as an eternal optimistic with a "huge slice of competitive."

Now the undefeated champion in the 100-metre dash, Connor will compete for Canada at the Beijing Paralympics.

It has been a long road to China for Connor, filled with tough lessons learned as a young athlete.

Another setback had Connor debating the end of his sporting career. In 2004, he failed a drug test because of personal, yet legal, medications he says that as a young man he was too embarrassed to admit he was taking.

"My own downfall is what I created," he said. Due to cancer concerns, a testicle had been removed and the testosterone patch he had been wearing to balance his hormones tipped his levels on the day of one test, weeks before he was to compete.

"I learned a very valuable lesson about taking ownership for who you are," Connor said.

He continues to challenge himself to be healthy and happy, remembering to have fun and keeping balance in his life.

"If you don't have balance, you're really out of whack," he said.

After a two-year hiatus, the athlete, who proudly holds his undefeated streak since 1997, has three main goals.

"First and foremost is to win a gold medal in Beijing," he said, adding that's like "the A-plus on the term paper." He'd also like to beat his own world record of 12.14 seconds and run the race in under 12, which he said is an exhilarating accomplishment.

The last goal looks away from the track.

"(I'd like to) transcend into real life," said the newly married Connor, adding he's excited about the prospect of improving lives by working in the prosthetic industry.

But for now, "I really am totally living my dream," he said.

Canadian Paralympic athlete Earle Connor is gearing up for the Games in Beijing.

Paralympic facts

- The Paralympics will be held Sept. 7-17, with the opening ceremony set for Sept. 6. The slogan is "One World, One Dream."
- The first Winter Paralympics were held in Sweden in 1976.
- "Paralympics" comes from the Greek "para," meaning "alongside," and therefore refers to a competition held parallel to the Olympics.
- In 2004, Athens saw 3,806 Paralympic athletes. More than 4,000 are expected to attend this year in Beijing.
- The Summer Games in Beijing will have 20 sports competitions — the highest number in Paralympic history.
- Amputees are not necessarily limited to competing against other amputees, and their abilities will be evaluated by an international panel alongside other Paralympians prior to the Games.

by the numbers

PHOTOS BY MATT TURNER/ALLSPORT

Earle Connor in action at the Sydney Paralympic Games in 2000.

25-30 Number of hours Earle Connor trains every week.

1999 Year Connor moved to Calgary. He's originally from rural Saskatchewan.

100-metre dash is his specialty.

UNBC hits milestone

The University of Northern British Columbia surpassed the $100-million mark in research funding after accruing nearly $17.5 million in the 2007-08 fiscal year. The total is second to the school's record set in 2005-06, which saw a contribution of almost $19 million. METRO

Workology

'UN-scholarship'

Firkin Group of Pubs, a Canadian neighbourhood pub chain, has launched an online contest to help Ontario PSE students or recent graduates eliminate their loan debt. The company will award five $5,000 "Un-Scholarships" to deserving applicants. METRO

Headhunting as a corporate 'cupid'

Dating service worker searches out hottest people in the Vancouver area

ANDREW KING
for Metro Vancouver

Vancouver is a "tough" city for dating, says a "professional cupid" whose job is to approach the city's best-looking people to find out if they're single.

Zena Driver, a "cupid" for Vancouver's Executive Search Dating, headhunts successful singles in neighbourhoods that are filled with professionals who are too busy to date, such as the business district and Yaletown.

"I would say I am incredibly lucky," said Driver. "I get to go and talk to the most successful, attractive people, men and women, on the streets of Vancouver."

"I get to go and talk to the most successful, attractive people, men and women, on the streets of Vancouver."
"Cupid" Zena Driver

After finding the perfect single, she invites them back to the head office where matchmakers perform a thorough screening to make sure candidates meet the company's standards before they are set up with other clients.

Driver had no idea what she was getting herself into when she accepted an invitation to join the company.

"I replied to an ad I saw in the newspaper, and I met with the president of the company, Paddi Rice, who hired me directly, and from there it's just been running forward."

The job has given Driver the perfect opportunity to have fun making a living while she pursues her passion for acting and her dream of making it to a Broadway stage.

"I basically was looking for a job that would allow me to audition during the day with very flexible hours. It's absolutely perfect. It was a godsend for sure," she said.

Driver said people are often flattered when they are approached on the street and asked if they're single.

"Sometimes we see somebody, and we just can't let them get away, and we'll say, 'Excuse me, you have been chosen as someone we would like to headhunt, you are so attractive and we would love to know more about you.'"

Recently, Driver headhunted a man who she could not believe was single.

"We saw this man, and there was just no way he was single," said Driver. "He was just incredibly attractive, he was absolutely gorgeous (and) he was completely single and just too busy to go out on dates."

So, would she ever use her job as a "cupid" to find her own dates?

"Absolutely never!" she said. "I would never find my own date."

ANDREW KING/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Zena Driver, a "professional cupid" at Executive Search Dating, headhunts attractive, successful Vancouver singles who are too busy to find dates on their own.

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This Day In Music History
July 7, 2006: Pink Floyd co-founder Roger "Syd" Barrett dies in England at the age of 60, due to complications from diabetes. REUTERS

Entertainment

Mamma Mia!
ABBA member Agnetha Faltskog, left, waves from a balcony after appearing with the cast and other ABBA members during the movie premiere of the musical Mamma Mia! in Stockholm over the weekend. REUTERS

Jay-Z performs at Glastonbury.

Jay-Z gets festival boost

Jay-Z's appearance at Britain's Glastonbury Festival may have upset some rock purists, but it was music to the ears of his bank manager.

Sales of the rapper's last album rocketed nearly five-fold in the days after his headline performance at Worthy Farm in Somerset, according to HMV figures released on Friday.

HMV spokesman Gennaro Castaldo said five of Jay-Z's old singles, including Big Pimpin', 99 Problems and Hard Knock Life, are expected to re-enter the British charts this Sunday.

The Black Album, released by the New Yorker in 2003, saw a 480 per cent increase in sales.

"The choice of Jay-Z may have been a controversial one ... but it seems that the fans who were there or watched his performance on TV loved it," Castaldo said.

There was even some good news for Oasis' Noel Gallagher, who attacked the organizers for choosing Jay-Z as a headline act. His song Wonderwall enjoyed an 18 per cent sales rise after Jay-Z teasingly included it in his festival performance.

Other performers also benefited from their Glastonbury appearances, with higher sales for Neil Diamond, Amy Winehouse and The Verve.

"The 'Glastonbury Effect' on artist sales appears more pronounced than ever before," Castaldo added.

REUTERS

Worthy of a promotion?

KIM LINEKIN
for Metro Canada

The Promotion
Director: Steven Conrad
Stars: Seann William Scott
Rating: 14A
Grade: ●●○○○

COMEDY I wanted to like this movie. Its concept is solid: Two losers duke it out over a promotion from assistant manager to manager of a Chicago grocery store chain only losers work at.

It's got a winning cast: Seann William Scott and John C. Reilly costar; Jenna Fischer and Lili Taylor play their wives; Fred Armisen, Gil Bellows and Jason Bateman play mealy corporate types. Even more promising, it's the directorial debut of Steven Conrad, who wrote The Weather Man (Nicolas Cage's finest film in eons) and The Pursuit Of Happyness, movies that put a human face on the working stiff.

So how did Conrad turn this surefire indie hit into an unsure mess?

For starters, Reilly's character has just moved down from Quebec, but I dare you to find anything Canadian about him. Taylor is, for no good reason, playing someone from Scotland. Want to hear Taylor do a distracting Scottish accent? Me neither.

The Promotion is now in theatres.

But what really kills this comedy of one-upmanship is Conrad's downer need to put a human face on everything. Scott's character wants to buy his saintly wife a house. Reilly wants to prove to his wife he won't relapse into addiction.

And whenever someone starts to do something outrageous — like tell a lie or rat out another character — Conrad cheats us out of the consequences by having them change their minds or be forgiven.

The pacing is unforgivably slack. Scenes linger. Running jokes never get off the ground.

THE DARK KNIGHT
Go to metronews.ca and tell us the page you found this on

Entertainment in brief

CHARTS Buoyed by increasing airplay, Katy Perry's bi-curious ditty I Kissed A Girl started a second week at No. 1 on the latest Billboard Hot 100 singles chart. But there was some stiff competition from the Jonas Brothers, as the teen idols' new single Burnin' Up debuted at No. 5, the second-best entry by a group this decade.

CHARITY Paris Hilton is keeping the promise she made to become a better person since being released from prison, *intouchweekly.com* reports. The hotel heiress made an unspecified "extremely generous" donation to the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases, which is currently being built at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. "The children I have met through my involvement with Children's Hospital have truly touched my heart," Hilton said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Will Smith rules box office with Hancock

weekend box office

Hancock is the No. 1 film at the North American box office.

Will Smith, the closest thing to a sure bet in Hollywood, flew to the top of the worldwide box office with his critically mauled superhero saga Hancock, distributor Columbia Pictures said yesterday.

The comedy-drama, in which Smith plays a drunken crime fighter with an image problem, sold an estimated $185 million US worth of tickets, the Sony Corp-owned studio said.

Moviegoers in the United States and Canada contributed $107.3 million in the six days since the film opened Tuesday evening, and the film racked up an additional $78 million in 50 territories. Columbia said the film opened at No. 1 in 47 of those 50 markets, including Britain, Germany, Australia, Brazil and South Korea.

The North American tally includes sales of $66 million for the Independence Day holiday weekend, beginning Friday.

Hancock ranks as Smith's eighth-consecutive chart-topper, and his 12th overall, Columbia said.

"Audiences love Will Smith and the characters he plays," said Rory Bruer, Columbia's president of domestic theatrical distribution.

"People want to share in the things he's doing."

REUTERS

Following are the top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning July 4:

1. **Hancock,** $66 million US
2. **WALL-E,** $33.4 million
3. **Wanted,** $20.6 million
4. **Get Smart,** $11.1 million
5. **Kung Fu Panda,** $7.5 million
6. **The Incredible Hulk,** $5 million
7. **Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull,** $3.9 million
8. **Kit Kittredge: An American Girl,** $3.6 million
9. **Sex And The City,** $2.3 million
10. **You Don't Mess With The Zohan,** $2 million

REUTERS

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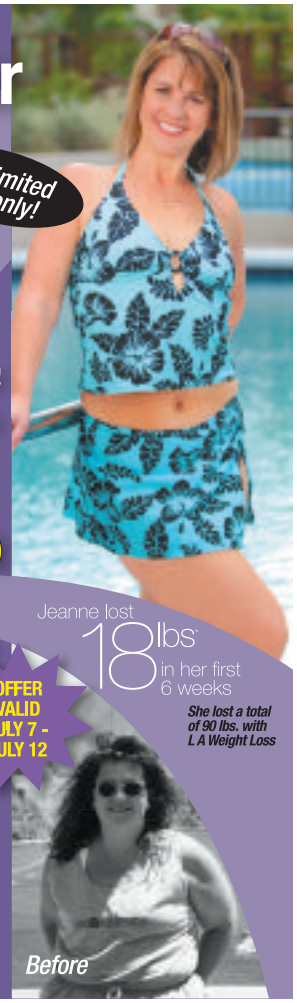
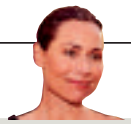
LA Weight Loss Centers
Jeanne lost 18 lbs in her first 6 weeks
She lost a total of 90 lbs. with L A Weight Loss
Before





Pregnant actress Minnie Driver, left, plans to stay in America after she has given birth — despite previously saying she would raise her firstborn in the U.K. IMBD.COM

Kung Fu Panda was faithful to Chinese culture and is laced with good humour, Chinese artists say.

Panda appreciation

More than just a box-office hit in China, animated Hollywood comedy Kung Fu Panda has led Chinese artists to find fault with their own film industry and call for fewer government controls on culture.

The movie, which tells the story of a fat panda who dreams of martial arts glory, was faithful to Chinese culture and laced with good humour, but China itself may have been incapable of producing such a film, a Chinese filmmaker and opera director lamented.

"The film's protagonist is China's national treasure and all the elements are Chinese, but why didn't we make such a film?" Wu Jiang, president of the China National Peking Opera Company, was cited as saying by Xinhua news agency on Saturday.

Lu Chuan, a young film director, applauded Kung Fu Panda as a fresh and rich take on Chinese culture, mixing references to martial arts films with classic legends.

"I cannot help wondering when China will be able to produce a movie of this calibre," he wrote in the China Daily.

Lu said the government was stifling the creativity of China's filmmakers, explaining how he had been asked to make an animated film for the Olympic Games, which will be hosted by Beijing in August, but decided to walk away from the project.

"I kept receiving directions and orders on how the movie should be like," he said.

An advisory body to the country's rubber-stamp parliament debated this week why a film like Kung Fu Panda, produced by DreamWorks Animation, had not been made in China, Xinhua reported.

REUTERS

Paint and paper demystified

A Colin and Justin two-part back-to-basics guide. This week PAINT, next week PAPER!

Blimey. How paint has changed. Past tense? Matte, satin or gloss. Present tense? Well, for fear of sending you to sleep, we'll dodge the chemical composition science lesson and veer instead toward basic description.

Undercoat — whether painting wood, drywall, metal or brick, there's an undercoat product to suit it. We know it's tempting to cut corners, but unless the paint you're using is specially designed as an "all in one" (no primer required) then cheating will create poor results. Prepped surfaces last longer.

Latex — the optimum product for wall coverage. Available in every conceivable colour, this water-based medium will wash out easily from brushes and rollers.

Oil based — these products are, as their name suggests, oil based and, as far as we're concerned (with latex paint now so improved) there's little need for them in this day and age. They also tend to be more pungent and you'll need special paint thinner and brush cleaners to tidy up after each job.

Spray paints — available in a range of off-the-shelf colours. Relatively easy to use and, as long as surfaces are smooth and clean, they can achieve a smoother finish than brush applied paint.

Paint finishes

Flat — a perfect no-sheen finish (most commonly associated with latex) that is great on walls. A particular bonus is that this paint will help disguise surface imperfections.

Eggshell — particularly good where high traffic is expected as it's easier to wipe clean. This paint has a discernable sheen but still provides a relatively flat finish.

Satin — great for bathrooms, kitchens and kids rooms due to its wipe clean nature.

Gloss — need we say more? A dated finish that we tend to avoid. Period.

Our Top Tips

- Preparation is key; sand, sand and sand again.
- Limit shiny finishes as reflected light will exacerbate any problems. Opt for matte or flat finish if trying to disguise bumpy areas.
- Don't be shy to ask a million and one questions in store before investing in your paint. The staff, after all, are trained to assist.
- Invest in good quality brushes. If you buy cheap, you'll buy twice. And bristle loss will drive you to distraction! Several light even coats (with adequate drying time between each) are always better than one sticky heavy coat.
- When painting timber, let your brush follow the grain of the wood to achieve best results.

Colin & Justin's The Home Show airs Tuesdays at 11 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m. ET on HGTV. www.hgtv.ca

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Entertainment in brief

GILLIAN IS GOOD KISSER: DUCHOVNY Gillian Anderson is a good kisser, according to David Duchovny, *Femalefirst.co.uk* reports. Duchovny, who played Fox Mulder opposite Anderson's Dana Scully in '90s TV show The X-Files and reprises his role in the new movie The X-Files: I Want To Believe, says locking lips with the actress was a memorable experience.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Urban's surprise gift to Nicole

PEOPLE With Nicole Kidman due to give birth in early July, Keith Urban has purchased a surprise present to give to his wife in the delivery room — a $73,000 Cartier Trinity ring, In Touch Weekly reports. "It's three rings intertwined, so it's very symbolic," the insider says of the popular design.

REUTERS

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Going Out

7 p.m. Rapper Diamond D performs live with DJs Kilo Cee, Rhek, Brand and The Stunt Man. At Lamplighter Public House, 92 Water St. Tix: $20 Info: *myspace.com/emotionz*

8 p.m. Kode9 plays dubstep with special guests Michael Red and Calamalka. At Richard's on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $15 Info: *timbreproductionsconcerts.com*

9 p.m. Movement Underground: DJ Jeff Campbell spinning funky tech house. At Sip Resto Lounge, 1117 Granville St. Info: *www.siplounge.com*

10 p.m. Soulstream: DJ Abel spinning house, funk and soul. At Republic, 958 Granville St. Info: *dhmbars.ca*

Canadian acting legend Raymond Burr, right, will be honoured in the form of a new Canadian postage stamp.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Man behind Bozo the Clown passes away

TELEVISION Larry Harmon, the alter ego behind Bozo the Clown for more than 50 years, died on Thursday of congestive heart failure at age 83, his spokesman said. Harmon, a native of Ohio, died at his home in Los Angeles, his spokesman Jerry Digney said. Harmon was not the original Bozo, but he portrayed the flame-haired clown in numerous appearances over the years.

More importantly, he purchased the copyright and trademark to the clown in the 1950s, and as a result was responsible for keeping Bozo working in the entertainment industry for more than half a century.

Over the years, Harmon trained some 200 actors to portray the clown for various local TV stations and other programs franchised around the country. For a time, Harmon also ran a large animation studio in Hollywood, producing cartoons based on comedians Laurel and Hardy, as well as the characters Popeye and Mr. Magoo. REUTERS

South Park strikes again

WHY SOUTH PARK IS ESSENTIAL, No. 57: Trey Parker and Matt Stone effectively had the last word on the Hollywood writers' strike earlier this year with Canada On Strike, the South Park episode that earned bonus points for being the latest totally gratuitous shot at this country by the Comedy Central show.

Where we once had to turn to old newsreels and clips of broadcast news shows to evoke and sum up an event in history (FDR declaring war on Japan, Walter Cronkite taking off his glasses after announcing the death of JFK), Canada On Strike will suffice to sum up precisely why the Writers Guild of America strike was an almost completely counterproductive exercise in poor bargaining with scant leverage. I can't wait to see what they'll do if the Screen Actors Guild goes on strike. On a more esoteric note, the next episode in the show's 12th season was a parody of Heavy Metal, the 1981 animated feature that still gives off a pungent aroma of bongwater and mildewed rec room for anyone who made the mortal mistake of being "there" when it was released, or during the long dark period when you could rely on finding a VHS copy of the film in any video rental store in the world. (Divining a unifying theme, Heavy Metal was voiced almost entirely by Canadians, including half the cast of SCTV.)

In a series of mini production featurettes on the South Park Studios website, Parker, Stone and their animators go behind the scenes to describe how hard they worked to approximate the craptacular animation style of Major Boobage, their loving tribute to Heavy Metal.

They'll probably end up on the 12th season box set of the show, alongside the predictably risible "bonus features" Stone and Parker include with their DVD sets, so you'd might as well get your DVD burner fired up now.

HURTLING INTO THE 21st CENTURY, ONE WEB SITE AT A TIME: In further writers' strike fallout, a website was launched last week to showcase the work of writers affected by the WGA strike, with the solemn promise that whatever profits they realize — we're talking about the Internet here, people — will go to the Actors Fund, which was set up to compensate crew members unemployed by the strike. *Strike.tv* was launched on the 4th of July with a teaser trailer promising work by writers from a dizzying array of shows, peppered by appearances by actual name actors — I was able to spot Kelly from The Office, two former James Bonds and Bob Newhart.

GETTY IMAGES
South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Precisely how *Strike.tv* intends to make money remains to be seen — will they be selling ads, or will the site take a cut of the money if one of the shows gets bought or optioned for movies or TV?

In any case, it seems a classic example of Hollywood backing into the future once again — possibly stumbling into the new business model it sorely needs without any idea of how exactly it got there.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 7/7/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Countdown to	How Do-Maria	City Chase (N)	The Border "Physical Assets"		CBC News: The National (N)		Stampede
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	My Boys	How I Met	Nashville Star (CC)		X-Weighted (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Degrassi	Corner Gas	Robson Arms	Canadian Idol (CC)		CSI: Miami "Burned" (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Coach (CC)	Growing Pains	Darling Buds of May		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (PA) (CC)		House "Whatever It Takes"		Risk Takers (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Big Bang Th	30 Rock	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	Curveball: W.P. Kinsella		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	American Gladiators (N)		The Bachelorette (Season Finale) (N) (CC)				The Bachelorette (N) (CC)		Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	Gossip Girl "Hi, Society"		One Tree Hill (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami "Burned" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	American Gladiators (N)		Nashville Star (CC)		Dateline NBC (N) (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	How Clean	House	Confidential	Divine Design	How Clean	Kim	House
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelorette (Season Finale) (N) (CC)				The Bachelorette (N) (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Life Without Dick ★ (2001) Sarah Jessica Parker.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		History Detectives (N) (CC)		The War of the World (CC)		Change Your
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (PA) (CC)		House "Whatever It Takes"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Churchill "The Lion's Roar"		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl "Hi, Society"		One Tree Hill (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Nashville Star (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	29 NW	Mad About English (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Mad About English (CC)		National
	500	500	43 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics. From McAfee Coliseum in Oakland, Calif.						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	Cagefighting Highlights		Poker Night (Taped) (CC)		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Cycling		Departures "Jordan" (CC)		Cycling Tour de France Stage 3. From Saint-Malo to Nantes, France.				
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		(:15) Stump the Schwab		WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		101 Cars	Car Crazy	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		Ole: La Liga		Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach "Vigil" (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	Sixteen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Ultimate Avengers: The Movie (2006, Action)		
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Leading Edge	Wild at Heart	The Golden Bridge (CC)		At Death's Door (CC)		The Big V		Nature
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Dedicated		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	PunchMuch		MuchTopTens Top 10. (CC)		Punk'd (CC)	Instant Star	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Spotlight
	600	564	26 H&G	Location, Location, Location		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Design U	Home to Stay	Property	House	Location, Loc.
	615	520	61 A&E	Psychic Kids: Paranormal		Paranormal	Paranormal	Intervention "Chad" (CC)		Intervention "Charles" (CC)		Psychic Kids
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:00) Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi ★★★ (1983)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	64 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by the Dozen (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Little People
	616	522	63 SHO	ReGenesis "Faint Hope"		Cold Squad "Gavin MacInnis"		Trailer Park	Billable Hours	Damages "Blame the Victim"		(:05) House
	620	523	70 BVO	Decoding the Undertow		Law & Order "Custody" (CC)		Without a Trace "Trials"		Old Gringo ★★ (1989) Jane Fonda. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	The Millionaire Matchmaker		End of Leash	Spoiled	Wedding SOS	Party Mamas	The Millionaire Matchmaker		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Dirty Jobs (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		Really Big Things (CC)		Dirty Jobs (CC)		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "The Meat Puzzle"		Dogfights "P-51 Mustang"		Thirteen Days ★★★ (2000) Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood. (CC)				
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Taken "High Hopes"		Stargate SG-1 "Full Circle"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	57 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Bill Engvall	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Signs ★★★ (2002) Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix. (CC)			
	619	525	68 TROP	Deal or No Deal Canada		ET Canada	What	X-Weighted "Jeremy" (CC)		Are You Smarter		Deal-No Deal
	603	561	92 FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Good Eats	Perfection	Nightmares
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore	Tom Green	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Shrek the Third ★★		The Other Woman (2008) Josie Bissett. (CC)		The Break-Up ★★ (2006) Vince Vaughn. (CC)				Da Vinci Code
	581	566	101 MTV	(6:00) Fat Camp (CC)		MTV Live (CC)		Fat Camp Healthy lifestyle. (CC)				MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Divine Restor.	Recreat. Eden	Doc "Man's Best Friend"		McLeod's Daughters		Prime Minister	Wait for God	Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Doctor Song Lian Sheng		I Luv New York		GMA Telesine Night		Patrol World

critics' corner

One Tree Hill
Worlds are colliding! Brooke (Sophia Bush) wants Owen (Joe Manganiello) to see what her life in New York is like, but when they visit the city, she has an unexpected encounter with someone from her past. Haley's (Bethany Joy Galeotti) marriage suffers a blow. Dan (Paul Johansson) is up for parole, and Nathan and Lucas (James Lafferty, Chad Michael Murray) plan to attend the hearing in "Running to Stand Still." 6 PM on WGN WPX

CSI: Miami
It's "hasta la vista" time for one member of Horatio's (David Caruso) team in "Burned." The investigator's personal problems have interfered with the team's latest investigation — a romantic breakup that turned deadly — and Horatio must wield the ax. But while someone is out, an old familiar face returns: Yelina (Sofia Milos). 10 PM on CBS CTV

Transformers star Megan Fox has reportedly called off her engagement to actor fiance Brian Austin Green. Sources claim the pretty brunette, 22, sent business associates correspondence last week alerting them to the sad news.
IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna and Ritchie have dinner date

MARRIAGE Madonna and husband Guy Ritchie have put on a show of unity with a rare public appearance together in New York, *imdb.com* reports.

The couple enjoyed a romantic meal at an Italian restaurant — just hours after Madonna's publicist Liz Rosenberg issued a statement denying the pair is set to divorce.

Madonna and Ritchie were snapped heading into an exclusive restaurant hand in hand on Tuesday evening. A source tells *People.com*, "(They looked) like a normal couple that just wanted to have a nice dinner out.

"They looked very unassuming, not like they were looking for attention." Another onlooker tells the website, "Everyone was whispering and saying, 'Wow, that was Madonna. She is supposed to be separating from her husband. I can't believe she is here.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Klum snubs plastic surgery

STATEMENT Heidi Klum would rather look like a "dinosaur" than have plastic surgery, *female first.co.uk* reports.

The 34-year-old model and TV presenter — who is married to British singer Seal — would never resort to going under the knife to maintain her looks.

She said: "I see that I've aged already. When I look at pictures now and when I see old pictures of me, of course I see I have aged. I don't think I would have plastic surgery.

"I'll be the only dinosaur in town, the only one that can actually move her forehead!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Kate, Lance go out with mom

COUPLE Kate Hudson and Lance Armstrong have been spotted enjoying a meal with the actress' mum Goldie Hawn, further fuelling rumours they are an item, *imdb.com* reports.

The alleged couple was seen eating a late lunch with Hudson's Hollywood veteran mother Hawn at the Ivy restaurant in Santa Monica, Calif., on Tuesday. They were snapped laughing and joking as they dined outside on the restaurant's patio area, according to *People.com*.

Hudson and Armstrong have been romantically linked since they were spotted kissing and cuddling during a party at the Cannes International Film Festival in France in May. But they have refused to speak publicly about their romance.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Married life with Mariah 'amazing'

MARRIAGE Rapper/actor Nick Cannon has laughed off rumours his marriage to Mariah Carey is on the rocks, insisting they couldn't be happier, *imdb.com* reports.

He tells *People.com*, "Marriage is amazing. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Law linked to young model

ROMANCE Actor Jude Law is reportedly romancing British model Lily Cole — who is 15 years his junior, *imdb.com* reports.

The Alfie star, 35, has previously been romantically linked to rocker Rod Stewart's daughter Kimberly, but has been spotted with red-haired catwalk beauty Cole in recent weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diaz's boyfriend moving in?

ROMANCE Although Cameron Diaz has only been dating model Paul Sculfor for a month, he's already staying with her, In Touch Weekly reports. "Cameron and Paul have been spending every night together," an insider tells the magazine, noting that Paul's main residence is in his native England. "He doesn't have a house in L.A. and Cameron doesn't mind him staying with her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Actor denying affair with Sienna

PEOPLE The married man accused of having an affair with Sienna Miller has denied reports he is romantically involved with the British actress who recently split from her fiance, *imdb.com* reports.

Balthazer Getty, who is married with four children, has refuted allegations he is involved with Miller, saying, "It's not true. No truth to any of that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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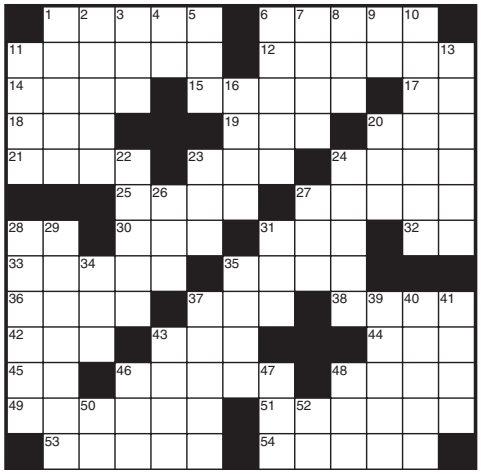
Jackass star Steve-o has been transferred from a rehabilitation centre into a psychiatric hospital. The troubled stuntman — real name Stephen Glover — had enrolled in a narcotics program to treat his drug addictions, but after allegedly getting clean, he has been moved to the secure mental ward at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Hospital. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Cooks in oil
6 Less civil
11 Chocolate dessert
12 Habituated
14 Prima donna's tune
15 Where's —?
17 Green-toned sloth
18 Late evening
19 "Alice" waitress
20 Dogma
21 Latin I verb
23 Is in possession of
24 Electron's hangout
25 Love god
27 Jet
28 Pleased sigh
30 Old pro
31 Skim milk's lack
32 Nebr. neighbor
33 Typed in
35 Fast-food drink
36 Spring bloom
37 Crowd
38 Deep red
42 Clean the floor
43 Pasture sound
44 Potpie veggie
45 Two, in combos
46 Makes void
48 Glance furtively
49 Beyond ordinary knowledge
51 FBI members
53 Decaf brand
54 Bodies of water

Crossword down

1 Links warnings
2 Ghost towns
3 My mind — — blank
4 Einsteinium symbol
5 Use a Singer
6 Valleys on the Moon
7 Disentangle
8 Laurel and Hardy
9 Speaker's pause
10 Thinks in a logical manner
11 Jane, to Tarzan
13 Lowered the lights
16 Nowhere near
20 Give — — try
22 Where icicles hang
23 Carrying current
24 Wedding site
26 Avg. size
27 Chum
28 With hands on hips
29 Brave deeds
31 Watch chain
34 Puppy noise
35 Glowing ember
37 Island nation
39 Overturn
40 Purple vegetables
41 Ties up the phone
43 Magnitude
46 Sister
47 Syrup base
48 Ink's partner
50 West Coast st.
52 Depart

950,000
Metro readers do it daily!
metro
Do it daily.
SOURCE: NADbank 2007, read yesterday; BASE: Montreal CMA, Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, Toronto CMA, Vancouver CMA

previous day's answer

A	L	P		D	O	S	E		O	B	I	E
B	A	R		W	H	E	W		R	A	N	G
E	C	O		A	S	C	E	N	D	I	N	G
L	E	V	E	R			E	E	L	S		
			O	F	F		B	E	A			
O	A	F	S		A	M	I		L	E	T	S
A	W	L			I	O	N			B	O	A
K	E	Y	S		R	E	D		I	B	E	X
			I	V	Y		S	O	D			
	P	A	G	E				R	A	F	T	S
D	U	C	H	E	S	S	E	S		L	I	P
E	M	I	T		A	R	L	O		A	N	A
W	A	D	S		L	I	M	N		P	E	R

This day in history

JULY 7, 1930: Industrialist Henry J. Kaiser begins construction of the Boulder Dam (now known as Hoover Dam).

JULY 7, 1978: The Solomon Islands become independent from the United Kingdom.

JULY 7, 2002: A scandal broke in the U.K. when reports alleged MI6 of sheltering Abu Qatada, the supposed European al Qaeda leader.

JULY 7, 2007: Worldwide performances by charity event Live Earth.

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
When you're given inspiration — grab it. Broken glass will be hazardous. Happiness is knowing when to stop doing something.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't try to clear the air if there's a resistance to truth. It's a super day for a romantic fantasy. Figures lie and liars figure.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A tolerant person will agree to make changes. Upsetting notes will be intercepted. Procedures have priority over relationships.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Be cautious while travelling. A friend shows a remarkable lack of concern. If your energy level flags, ask for help.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
An opinionated person changes your mind. A friendship may be damaged by amusement. Don't borrow from someone you don't like.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't make light of a serious problem. Damage becomes the topic of a discussion. Fear will interfere with getting support.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A baby will be a conversation piece. Avoid answering a skill-testing question. You'll perform random acts of kindness.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
A conversation will be seductive. Write about one of your haunting experiences. A tyrant is on the endangered list.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
You'll conduct yourself with dignity. A meeting alters your perspective. Co-workers will complain about faulty management.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Love letters will get lost. News from distance is baffling. Your feelings are a bit too obvious today.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
No time is found for the impractical. Take control of your destiny. A companion will have a replacement for you.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
A sweet youngster plays it as it comes. Don't take someone's bad manners personally. You'll finally be able to move on.

metro is available at your neighbourhood Blenz.
Read, relax and enjoy!
BLENZ COFFEE

		9				2		
		8	1		9	5		
2				6				4
	1	7	5		2	3	4	
	9	4	7		8	6	5	
1				3				6
		3	6		4	9		
		6				8		

Sudoku

INSTRUCTIONS:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

5	6	7	1	3	9	4	8	2
8	2	3	4	7	6	9	5	1
1	9	4	5	8	2	6	3	7
2	3	5	9	4	1	8	7	6
7	4	1	6	5	8	2	9	3
6	8	9	7	2	3	5	1	4
3	7	8	2	6	5	1	4	9
4	1	6	8	9	7	3	2	5
9	5	2	3	1	4	7	6	8

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13	Genius
13-17	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Not bad
25+	Keep practicing

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sunny. 22°	Clear. Low 13°	Sunny. 21°/ 15°	Sunny. 21°/ 14°	Partly sunny. 21°/ 11°

Temperature
Normals
High: 21.8°
Low: 12°

Records
High: 28.9°/1953
Low: 7.8°/1971

Sunrise: 5:16 a.m.
Sunset: 9:18 p.m.
Moonrise: 11:07 a.m.
Moonset: 11:38 p.m.

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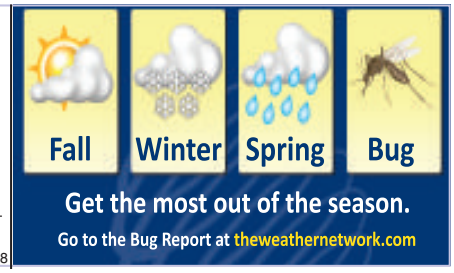

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Belarus	22.9¢	Iran	from 3.9¢	Russia	from 2.9¢
Bosnia & Her.	15.9¢	Jamaica	7.9¢	Serbia	6.9¢
Canada	1¢	Japan	6.9¢	Taiwan	1¢
China	1¢	Jordan	4.9¢	Turkey	3.9¢
Colombia	4.9¢	Lebanon	11.9¢	U.A.E.	19.9¢
Croatia	4.9¢	Mexico	from 3.9¢	Ukraine	9.9¢
Egypt	14.9¢	Morocco	17.9¢	U.S.A.	1¢
El Salvador	9.9¢	Nigeria	10.9¢	Vietnam	7.9¢

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